

REMARKS

Superfluous passages in the specification have been deleted.

Clerical errors in the drawings have been corrected. No new matter has been added.

Approval of the drawings as amended is respectfully requested.

Claims 1 and 2 are presented. Each is independent, and each has been amended to place it in condition for allowance.

Claims 1 and 2 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) as being anticipated by a newly cited U.S. patent to Asuma et al. No. 5,684,970. The examiner contends that each feature recited in claims 1 and 2 is found in the Asuma et al. patent.

The rejection is respectfully traversed.

Claim 1 as amended is directed to a communication terminal comprising a display unit (14) which displays an original selection screen for selecting at least one of a plurality of options.

Display control means (11) is provided which causes display of options in the display unit by division. A key is provided for selecting an option not currently displayed in the display unit from the options to be selected. The display control means causes, when an option not currently displayed has been selected, display of a screen associated with the selected option in the display unit. It further causes, when next displaying the original selection screen by operating a key, display of a screen that includes an indication of the selected option.

Claim 2 has likewise been amended to recite display control means (11) which causes display of options in the display unit by division. In addition, claim 2 specifies that the display

control means causes, when an option not currently displayed has been selected, display of a screen associated with the selected option in the display unit and causes display of information indicating the selected option when displaying the original selection screen next by operating a key.

The invention as defined in the amended claims is neither disclosed nor suggested by the Asuma et al. patent.

The Office Action states on page 3 that the Asuma et al. patent discloses display control means which causes display of options in the display unit by division or scroll and refers to CPU 102 in Fig. 1 of the patent. The Office Action notes that a passage at column 17, lines 27-32, refers to the use of cursor keys to move the display. This is clearly a scroll function, not a division function, and does not meet the language of the claims as amended. On that ground alone, the rejection under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) is unsustainable.

Moreover, the amended claims bring out a basic distinction between the invention and the prior art relied upon. In order to appreciate this distinction, it may be helpful to refer to Figs. 35A, 35B and 35C and the corresponding description beginning with the third full paragraph on page 34 of the application.

In Fig. 35A, the original selection screen displays options 1-4. It does not display option 6, although option 6 is a (currently hidden) part of the original selection screen. If option 6 is nevertheless selected, the program drills down immediately to display options 6-1 through 6-4 (Fig. 35B). If that display is cleared, the program does not revert to Fig. 35A but instead reverts to a portion of the original selection screen that displays options 5-7 rather than the originally displayed options 1-4. Moreover, option 6, which was selected in order to produce the display of

Fig. 35B, is highlighted as in Fig. 35C.

The passages of the Asuma et al. patent cited in the Office Action do not disclose any such operation. The Office Action refers to a selection made at step 909 of Fig. 9 of the Asuma et al. patent and ensuing displays. As the patent points out at column 10 in a passage beginning at line 10, if it is determined in step 909 that an icon has been selected by the user, an icon number of the selected icon is stored in the selected icon number buffer. The subsequent steps 918 and 919 cited in the Office Action do not correspond to the steps of the application described above. In step 918 of the patent, an application program is activated, and in step 919, the application program is processed. But there is no disclosure that, when going back to an original selection screen, there is a display of the kind indicated in Fig. 35C.

Of course reverse displays are known per se and the patent mentions them in column 11, for example, at lines 13-15 and 38-40. However, this is the reverse display of an item currently selected, not of an item previously selected.

Thus, the present invention provides a type of menu navigation aid that is entirely absent from the prior art relied upon and very advantageous in displays for cell phones and other communication terminals.

Since the rejection is inapplicable to the claims as amended, it is respectfully requested that the rejection be withdrawn and the application be allowed.

Patent
S.N. 09/642,911
6822/62934

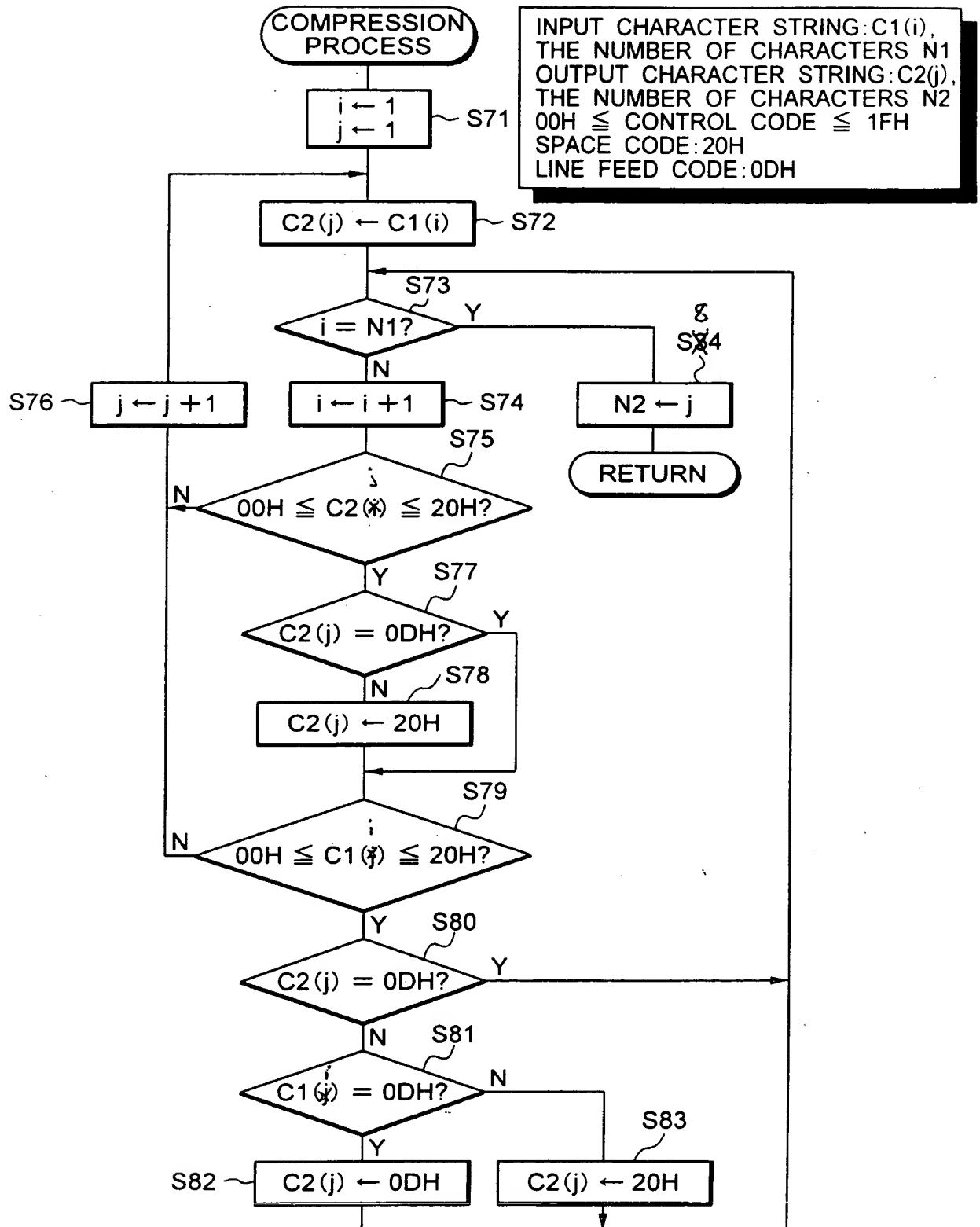
If a telephone interview would expedite prosecution of the application, the examiner is requested to call undersigned counsel.

Respectfully submitted,
COOPER & DUNHAM LLP

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "William E. Pelton".

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DSD:efb



AMENDMENTS TO THE DRAWINGS:

The attached sheet of drawings includes the following changes to Fig. 16:

"C2(i)" is changed in S75 to "C2(j)";

"C1(j)" is changed in S79 to "C1(i)";

"C1(j)" is changed in S81 to "C1(i)";

"S34" is changed to "S84".

Attachment: Replacement Sheet

Annotated Sheet Showing Changes